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*EXCAVATIONS AT SAMARIA*

The first season's work of the Harvard Expedition to Samaria closed in the latter part of August. In consequence of various delays and interruptions incident to the beginning of the undertaking, the actual digging covered only nine or ten weeks in all. Doctor Gottlieb Schumacher, who has had the direction of the work, surveyed the ground, tracing the remains of the city wall, the circuit of which is about two miles and a half, and made a plan of the site.

After conference between Professor Reisner and Dr. Schumacher, exploratory trenches were opened at two places: one a short distance southwest of the modern village of Sebastiyeh, where some standing columns indicated the presence of a temple in Roman times; the other about three hundred yards farther to the southwest, on the highest part of the mound and the terraces immediately to the west of it. At the former, the lines and dimensions of the temple have been partially determined, more complete exploration being deferred to another year.

On the summit, where most of the digging has been done, a great stone stairway was uncovered, ascending from north to south. Nineteen steps, which must originally have been more than seventy feet in length, remain. They lead up to a rectangular paved area, now extending between fifty and sixty feet from east to west and twenty-five feet from north to south, and lying but a few inches beneath the present surface of the ground. Massive substructure walls, scattered drums of columns, and fragments of carved mouldings, show that the summit was once crowned by a large edifice, which has, however, been so completely destroyed as to leave nothing standing above ground. At the bottom of the stairway was found the torso and base of a marble statute of heroic proportions and fine workmanship. The type recalls Roman imperial statues, and Professor Lyon ventures the conjecture that it may be a statue of Augustus, in whose honor Herod, when he rebuilt the city, renamed it Sebaste. It is to be hoped

that this question may be settled by the recovery of the missing head of the figure. A few feet from the statue stood an altar, and not far from it two altar *stelae* with Latin inscriptions.

A detailed account of the work of the Expedition will be given in the January number of the REVIEW.